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Libertarian Party issues "Challenge to the Republicans"

WASHINGTON DC — The Libertarian Party has challenged the Republican Party to live up to its 1994 campaign promises, and "drastically reduce the size of the federal government."

In a strongly worded "Challenge to the Republicans" — hand-delivered to the offices of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole — Libertarian Party National Chair Steve Dasbach urged the GOP to immediately abolish 21 federal programs, agencies, and policies.

"The ball is in the court of the Republican Party now. The next six months will determine if Republicans can be trusted to start eliminating many of the federal programs and agencies that have no place in a free society," said Dasbach.

On the Libertarian Party's 21-item "hit list" were Amtrak, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Civilian Marksman Program, Steamtown USA, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Selective Service, the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Fossil Energy Research, the Davis Bacon Act, the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the National Service Program. Also included were FCC controls on 900 lines and cable TV, subsidized grazing fees, the space station, the DC Domestic Partners regulation, shipping quotas and subsidies, the Overseas Marketing Board, the semi-automatic weapons ban, several "War On Drugs" civil liberties violations, and unnecessary NATO and UN military spending.

"This is not just some idle wish list," stressed Dasbach. "Legislation has previously been introduced in the House or Senate to abolish most of the items on the Libertarian list. In the past, these efforts have been defeated. Often, many Republican members of Congress failed to support attempts to abolish these wasteful and useless government programs. Now is the time to act!"

If fully implemented, the "Challenge" would produce immediate savings to the taxpayers of at least \$4.5 billion, and could ultimately reduce the federal budget by hundreds of billions of dollars.

"The eyes of the Libertarian Party — and the eyes of all American voters — will be on the Republicans. Will they carry out the mandate given to them by the American voter last November? As America's third largest political party, we will be closely evaluating the job they do," vowed Dasbach.